

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

When applying to become an IRS approved continuing education provider, applicants must ensure that programs submitted contain the following:

- The program title should include a specific descriptor of the program content; and
- The program description must succinctly describe the major elements or content of each program offered in a manner sufficient for the reviewer to make a determination that the program covers appropriate subject matter for the category (federal tax, federal tax-related, federal tax law updates, qualified retirement plan matters, or ethics). The description should also include who will be delivering the content (panel, speaker, or other method). Additionally, ethics program descriptions must include how practical application of the subject matter will be tested in real world situations (hypothetical examples, panel discussions, fact patterns, etc.).

Below are examples of continuing education programs titles and descriptions that meet the above criteria:

Federal Taxation/Federal Tax Related Matters

Foreign Athletes and Entertainers – Special Withholding Rules

Gillian bought a ticket to see “The Celtic Blast” the newest rock sensation from Ireland, when they appeared in concert at her small college in Iowa. Is Gillian a withholding agent? Each year, over 100,000 non-resident alien (NRA) athletes and entertainers perform independent personal services at thousands of venues throughout the USA. Who is responsible for withholding and reporting on the income they earn? In this round table discussion, you’ll discover who is required to withhold, deposit, and report on the income earned by non-resident alien athletes and entertainers as well as learn more about withholding requirements, withholding certificates, tax treaty benefits limitations and an alternative to potential over withholding.

Program Changes for Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts

The Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts TD Form 90-221.1 or FBAR is required of all U.S. persons having a financial interest in, or authority over, a financial account located in a foreign country if the aggregate value of the account(s) exceeds \$10,000 at any time during the calendar year. In this seminar you will learn from your instructor about recent changes/revisions made to the FBAR form and instructions for the

2010 filing year, definition of a U.S. person, foreign financial accounts, and FBAR filing exceptions.

Corporate Taxation

This on line course examines and explains the basics of corporate taxation. It focuses on: regular and C corporations, their formation and operation under tax law; the advantages and disadvantages of corporations; incorporation and capitalization issues; basic tax rates and specialty taxes; the tax treatment of operational expenses and deduction; accounting periods and methods; and the dangers of multiple corporations and corporate distributions. This course, including examination, must be completed within one year of the date of purchase.

Federal Tax Law Updates

Estate and Gift Tax Law – What to Expect for 2010 Tax Returns

As a result of legislation in 2001, the estate tax is repealed for 2010, but was reinstated in 2011 with significant changes in the exemption amount and rates. However, the gift requirements have not changed since 2009. Panelists will discuss the current status of estate and gift tax legislation, filing requirements, and potential issues faced by taxpayers.

Legislative Update – What's Upon Capitol Hill?

Massive changes are afoot in Washington. How will upcoming changes and legislation affect you and your clients? This instructor-led presentation will discuss what is likely to happen with Social Security reform, how the economic crisis will affect the trust fund surplus, health care reform, 401Ks and IRAs.

American Recovery Act of 2009

This on line course focuses on key tax provisions enacted under the \$800 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 by analyzing tax issues affecting individuals and businesses contained in this first installment of President Obama's massive economic and recovery agenda. Individual provisions include a new "making work pay" tax credit, an AMT patch, a sales tax reduction, tax credits for education and first time homebuyers and enhanced tax benefits for energy efficient improvements to homes. Business provisions include the treatment of such issues as extended bonus depreciation, a limited five year net operating loss carry back period, small business expensing and capital gains, estimated tax payments, and COBRA coverage.

Ethics

Statements on Standards for Tax Services

This session will review the recently updated AICPA's seven Statements on Standards for Tax Services (SSTs). The SSTs contain standards of tax practice relevant to all professionals. Ethical concepts and enforcement, the ramifications of the tax system's complexity, and overlap with Circular 230 will be covered. The instructor will use practical examples with a special emphasis on due diligence standards for tax professionals from smaller practices.

Ethical Issues Arising in Day to Day Practice

Rarely does a day pass in a tax practice that a practitioner is not confronted, either directly or subtly, with an ethical issue. Questions involving conflicts of interests, giving advice to clients in controversy matters, protecting confidentiality when communicating with third or related parties, addressing internal ethical barriers, and other problems can arise without warning. Panelists will address a series of such issues and discuss the day to day resolution of these and similar problems.

Ethical and Penalty Issues in Tax Practice

How does the IRS police the accuracy of tax returns? Can a taxpayer filing a return advance any reasonable arguable position? What are the tax practitioner's duties with respect to the accuracy of the taxpayer's tax return? When can a taxpayer rely on a practitioner for advice and when can the practitioner rely on information from the taxpayer? The lecturer will discuss real-world hypothetical situations to illustrate the ethical and penalty standards that apply to taxpayers and tax return preparers in every day practice.

IRS Policy and Procedures (Federal Tax Related Matters)

Appeals – Our Role in Resolving Examination Disputes

This presentation will explore the Appeals process as it relates to tax disputes originating in the Examination function of the IRS. It will offer an insider's tour of the process beginning with the request for Appeals consideration (in response to Examination issuing a notice such as 30-day letter or Formal Notice of Claim Disallowance) and ending with the case closing from Appeals. The presenter will focus on providing the audience with the knowledge and tools to successfully understand and participate in all stages of the Appeal process.

Top Employment Tax Issues

This instructor-led seminar will provide the latest information on employment taxes including what's new, what's on tap for the Small Business and Self Employed Employment Tax unit that will affect taxpayers, and what practitioners need to know to help their clients. This session will also include information on questionable employment tax practices, current employment tax trends, and other facts that will benefit the tax practitioner in advising clients.

Examination/Compliance Process

This instructor-led seminar will discuss current compliance initiatives in examination. Topics include a brief overview of the current organizational structure of the IRS Examination function and its role in the achievement of IRS' Strategic Plan. The presentation will encompass the four enforcement objectives of discouraging non-compliance by corporations, high-income individual taxpayers, and other taxpayers; assuring tax practitioners adherence to professional standards; deterring domestic and offshore based tax and financial criminal activity; and discouraging non-compliance within Tax Exempt and Government Entities.

Qualified Retirement Matters

Cross-Testing and 401(a)(4)

H.R. 4126, the Retirement Fairness Act of 2009, introduced on November 19, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, has re-ignited the discussion of whether cross-testing allocations of non-elective contributions should be permitted. While Congress is talking restricting or prohibiting cross-testing, the IRS has been broadening the types of plans which can utilize allocation by individual classification and the way plans can classify employees for cross-testing purposes. This live web seminar discusses the history of cross-testing and Internal Revenue Code section 401(a)(4), recent IRS guidance on applying Treas. Reg. 1.401(a)(4)-8 to individual classification and classification by individual names, and the language of H.R. 4126.

Standardized or Non-Standardized

With the next generation of defined contribution prototypes on the horizon, now is the time to discuss the differences between standardized prototypes and non-standardized prototypes as defined by Rev. Proc. 2005-16. In this live web seminar, we discuss the definition of a prototype plan and the choices available in each type of plan for eligibility and compensation exclusions. We also discuss the differences between Internal Revenue Code sections 415(c)(3) and 414(s) compensation, the designed-based safe harbors described in Treas. Reg. 1.401(a)(4), and the allocation formulas permitted in standardized prototype plans and non-standardized prototype plans. Finally, we discuss issues to consider when amending or modifying a prototype plan.

How Much is Enough, What is a Meaningful Benefit?

In this live web seminar, we discuss what meaningful benefits are, along with the guidance issued by the IRS on meaningful benefits, the requirements of Internal Revenue Code section 401(a)(26) and the specific language of Treas. Reg. 1.401(a)(26)-3. Finally, we explore the meaning of both the Paul Schulz memorandum on meaningful benefits and the Carol Gold memorandum on meaningful benefits, along with the meaning of the clarification to the Carol Gold memorandum issued by the IRS in 2005.

Tax Return Preparation (Federal Tax Law)

The Ugly 1040 and The Ugly 1040 II

Examine the world of the 1040 and the issues that make for complex tax return preparation. This instructor-led, four day conference can be taken separately or as part of a two day presentation. The tax professional will discover, in a real-world environment, what they know and what they don't know about preparing a Form 1040 from the all important interview with the client to the actual preparation utilizing issues such as:

- Who qualifies as a dependent;
 - Filing status;
 - Child Care Credit;
 - Business entity and related deductions;
 - Sale of assets and proper reporting; and
 - Schedule A itemized requirements and deductions.
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Introduction to the Decedent's Final Form 1040

This on line course introduces the tax professional to unique issues when preparing and planning the Final Form 1040 for the taxpayer who has died. It discusses the importance of how to allocate the income and deductions, and the issues that face the estate and the surviving beneficiaries. You will learn which taxpayer is responsible for the inclusion of the income and the deductions that are associated with death and succession. This course, including examination, must be completed within one year of the date of purchase.

Individual Income Taxes – A Complete Guide to the 1040

Designed to make the tax practitioner comfortable with “high traffic issues”, this self study course enables participants to discuss and handle individual tax essentials. This course explains the practical aspects of return preparation and individual planning, bridging the gap between theory and application. Practical applications and illustrations are used to systematically explore tax deferral, reduction, and elimination opportunities accompanying return preparation. This course, including examination, must be completed within one year of the date of purchase.
